

III.16 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

This chapter focuses on livestock grazing resources for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). The description of the environmental baseline focuses on BLM grazing allotments (which occur primarily on BLM lands).

III.16.1 Regulatory Setting

The primary laws that govern grazing on public lands are the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. The BLM's management of grazing on public lands is described in its own and in other federal regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 4100, BLM Handbooks 4100 to 4180, and BLM Manual H-4120-1).

III.16.1.1 Bureau of Land Management Administration

III.16.1.1.1 Public Land Grazing Administration 43 CFR 4100

The BLM administers the public lands grazing program under provisions in regulations (43 CFR 4100). These regulations address implementation of provisions in the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, FLPMA of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. The Taylor Grazing Act set forth regulations intended to stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration; provide for the lands' orderly use, improvement, and development; and stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range. FLPMA provides authority and direction for the multiple use and sustained yield of public lands. FLPMA also provides specific guidance for range management (FLPMA Subchapter IV). The Public Rangelands Improvement Act establishes a national policy to improve public rangeland conditions to support all rangeland values. The act also requires a national inventory, consistent federal management policies and funding for range improvement projects.

BLM regulations (43 CFR 4100) require that grazing standards and guidelines promote rangeland health. The regulations also require permits and leases that conform with either general standards or standards approved for a given area where a grazing allotment is located. Other terms and conditions may be specified in grazing permits or leases if they achieve management objectives, provide for proper range management, or assist in the orderly administration of public rangelands. Terms and conditions for grazing permits and leases must conform with BLM land use plan requirements.

III.16.1.1.2 Bureau of Land Management California Instruction Memorandum CA-2013-006

The BLM California State Office Instruction Memorandum provides direction for implementing provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 related to livestock grazing in areas covered by the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The Consolidated Appropriations Act includes one modified and three new general provisions that affect BLM's livestock grazing program. The BLM's Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (WO-IM-2012-096) provides direction for implementing the Consolidated Appropriations Act, except for specific provisions that apply solely to the CDCA Plan and amendments.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act directs the Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI) to accept the donation of some existing grazing permits or leases in the CDCA. The term "donation" in this context means the voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit or lease on a public grazing allotment.

III.16.1.2 Standard Operating Procedures (Management Guidelines)

III.16.1.2.1 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4180.2 Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration

Fallback Standards (in effect until CDCA standards are approved)

1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.
2. Riparian wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.
3. Stream channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.
4. Healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

Fallback Guidelines (in effect until CDCA guidelines are approved)

1. Management practices maintain or promote adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage, and stabilize soils.
2. Management practices maintain or promote soil conditions that support permeability rates that are appropriate to climate and soils.

3. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability.
4. Management practices maintain or promote stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions that are appropriate to climate and landform.
5. Management practices maintain or promote the appropriate kinds and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow.
6. Management practices maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native populations and communities.
7. Desired species are being allowed to complete seed dissemination in one out of every 3 years; management actions will promote the opportunity for seedling establishment when climatic conditions and space allow.
8. Conservation of federal threatened or endangered species, Proposed Category 1 and 2 candidates, and other special-status species is promoted by the restoration and maintenance of their habitats.
9. Native species are emphasized in support of ecological function.
10. Non-native plant species are used only in situations where native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities or are incapable of maintaining or achieving properly functioning conditions and biological health.
11. Periods of rest from disturbance or livestock use during times of critical plant growth or regrowth are provided when needed to achieve healthy, properly functioning conditions. (The timing and duration of use periods shall be determined by the authorized officer.)
12. Continuous, season-long livestock use is allowed only when it has been demonstrated to be consistent with achieving healthy, properly functioning ecosystems.
13. Facilities are located away from riparian wetland areas where they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian wetland function.
14. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions and processes of those sites.
15. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland is allowed only if reliable estimates of production have been made, residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season has been established, and adverse effects on perennial species have been avoided.

Grazing Management Practices

1. Salting is not permitted within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
2. Sheep will be herded.
3. Sheep bedding grounds will be designated, and will not be located within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
4. Trailing routes will be identified and controlled.
5. Proposed livestock conversions will be considered on the basis of resource needs, allotment capability, and management objectives. If conversions are made mainly for the convenience of the permittee, range improvement structures necessary to implement the conversion will be constructed and paid for by the permittee.
6. Annual checks will be conducted during the grazing season on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats to ensure compliance.
7. Trampling of soils will be monitored in conjunction with forage utilization to determine whether the limit of allowable grazing has been achieved.

Range Improvement Project Development

1. Livestock watering and handling facilities (e.g., corrals, chutes, and dipping vats) will normally not be located within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
2. Fence construction will conform with BLM objectives and specifications (BLM Manual 1737).
3. All livestock watering facilities will be designed to encourage wildlife use. Wildlife escape ramps will be installed and maintained in water troughs.
4. Springs and seeps that could be trampled by livestock will be fenced.
5. Benefits to range, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and watershed will be considered when designing range improvement projects.
6. Vegetation manipulation projects will be protected from grazing for at least two growing seasons following treatment.
7. Vegetation manipulation projects will be planted in irregular patterns to create more edge. Islands of vegetation will be left for cover.
8. All chemical applications require an approved pesticide use proposal and supervision by a Certified Pesticide Specialist. Before chemicals are applied, BLM

will comply with DOI regulations (BLM Manual 9222) and other applicable laws, regulations, and court orders. Herbicide use will be prohibited within 150 feet of streams. Any pesticide (as defined under Section 2 (u) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended) must be:

- a) Registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California
 - b) Specifically registered for the proposed use
 - c) Used only in accordance with requirements for safe mixing, storing, loading, and disposal
 - d) Marked with a current label
 - e) Used in accordance with its label and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations
 - f) Applied so that worker safety is ensured
9. Maintenance of structural improvements shall be provided by the beneficiary of the improvement.
10. All vegetation manipulations will leave 200 feet of undisturbed vegetation on both sides of all roads. Vegetation will not be manipulated on drainages with over 30% slope.
11. Seed mixtures adapted to the planting site will be used for seeding. Mixtures will include a variety of browse, forbs, and grass species that are desirable for both livestock and wildlife. All seed sources will be certified "weed free."
12. Burned areas will be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons before grazing.

III.16.1.2.2 Relinquishments of Grazing Permits/Lesseees

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 112-74) concludes that BLM must accept relinquishment of all donated grazing permits/leases (in the CDCA) that were in effect at the inception of the law. Upon BLM's acceptance, the grazing allotment will be permanently closed. At this time, 16 previously relinquished allotments will permanently close and all forage will be allocated to wildlife or ecosystem functions through the DRECP and LUPA process.

III.16.2 Grazing in the Land Use Plan Amendment Decision Area

III.16.2.1 Livestock Grazing Allotments

The LUPA Decision Area contains one grazing district, California District 1–Mojave (Figure III.16-1, Harpold 2006). This grazing district is in the northern portion of the LUPA Decision Area, in the Owens River Valley, West Mojave and Eastern Slopes, Panamint Death Valley, and Mojave and Silurian Valley ecoregion subareas and extends into the CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary.

Over 65 grazing allotments are in the LUPA Decision Area (see Figure III.16-1), totaling approximately 2.5 million grazing allotment acres on BLM-managed lands (based on BLM GIS data for grazing allotments). Table III.16-1 shows grazing allotments in the LUPA Decision Area, including the Bishop field office (Figure III.16-2) and Bakersfield field office (Figure III.16-3).

Table III.16-1
Grazing Allotments in the LUPA Decision Area

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active Animal Unit Months	Type of Livestock
<i>CDCA Plan Area</i>								
05001	Eureka Valley	16,000	0	0	0	16,000	0	Cattle
05002	Kelso Peak	2,700	100	0	0	2,700	110	
05005	Cantil Common	203,000	0	4,000	12,000	218,000	19,033	Sheep
05006	Hansen Common	35,000	0	0	0	35,000	354	Cattle
05007	Monolith Cantil	14,000	0	0	4,000	18,000	1,500	Sheep
05008	Rudnick Common	164,000	14,000	400	48,000	227,000	9,474	Cattle
05009	Tunawee	77,000	0	0	4,000	56,000	1877 cattle or 716 Sheep	Cattle, Sheep
05010	Darwin	21,000	0	0	0	21,000	0	
05011	Olancho Common	15,000	0	200	0	14,000	606	Cattle
05012	Lacey-Cactus-McCloud	256,000	0	600	0	148,000	790	Cattle

Table III.16-1
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Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active Animal Unit Months	Type of Livestock
05013	Hunter Mountain Lee Flat	53,000	0	0	0	53,000	5	Cattle
05014	Walker Pass Desert	35,000	0	0	0	35,000	0	Sheep
05050	Bissell	800	0	0	0	800	2	Sheep
05051	Warren	600	0	0	0	600	55	Sheep
05052	Antelope Valley	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	545	Sheep
05053	Oak Creek	200	0	0	0	200	16	Cattle
05055	Spangler Hills	58,000	0	900	11,000	70,000	760	Sheep
05057	Boron Sheep	11,000	0	0	72,000	83,000	0	Sheep
05059	Oasis Ranch	23,000	0	0	0	23,000		
05060	White Wolf	14,000	0	0	0	14,000	307	
05061	Last Chance	35,000	0	0	0	35,000	396	Cattle
05062	Deep Springs Valley	40,000	0	0	0	40,000	1,250	Cattle
05063	South Oasis	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	477	Cattle
05066	Double Mountain	600	0	0	0	600	38	Cattle
06001	Rice Valley	47,000	0	600	0	48,000	0	Sheep
08000	Pahrump Valley	26,000	0	700	0	27,000	550	Cattle
08001	Valley Well	500	0	0	0	500	24	Horse
08003	Rattlesnake Canyon	27,000	0	0	0	27,000	1,044	Cattle (996) Horse (48)
08004	Harper Lake	18,000	0	0	0	18,000	600	Cattle Closure Agreement
08005	Ord Mountain	125,000	0	5,000	19,000	149,000	3,632	Cattle (3,537) Horse (92)
08006	Cady Mountain	160,000	0	7,000	0	167,000	2,010 Unavailable for Livestock Grazing	Cattle Closure Agreement

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Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active Animal Unit Months	Type of Livestock
08007	Cronese Lake	49,000	0	100	12,000	61,000	500 Unavailable for Livestock Grazing	Cattle Closure Agreement
08010	Stoddard Mountain	17,000	0	6,000	0	23,000	0	Sheep
08011	Shadow Mountains	17,000	0	0	0	17,000	0	Sheep
08012	Buckhorn Canyon	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	0 Not active	Sheep
08013	Round Mountain	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	880	Cattle
08014	Johnson Valley	118,000	0	1,000	0	120,000	0 Not active	Sheep
09000	Valley View	32,000	0	900	0	33,000	424	Cattle Expired Lease
09003	Clark Mountain	45,000	18,000	4,000	0	67,000	643	Cattle
09004	Piute Valley	19,000	0	0	0	19,000	0 Not active	No Livestock
09007	Horse Thief Springs	150,000	0	4,000	800	155,000	2,424	Cattle
09008	Kessler Springs	14,000	0	0	0	14,000	481 Not active	Cattle
09013	Crescent Peak	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	359 Unavailable for livestock grazing	Cattle
09017	Jean Lake	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	300 Not active	Cattle
09018	Chemehuevi Valley	116,000	0	0	0	116,000	0 Not active	No Livestock
09076	Lazy Daisy	285,000	0	8,000	38,000	330,000	3,192	Cattle
BLM Bishop Field Office								
06015	Sawmill Creek	2,000	0	0	2,000	4,000	24	Cattle
06019	West Crater Mountain	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	331	Cattle
06023	Black Mine	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	47	Cattle
06033	Tinemaha	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	220	Cattle

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Grazing Allotments in the LUPA Decision Area

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active Animal Unit Months	Type of Livestock
06042	Ash Creek	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	243	Cattle
06046	Alabama Hills	65,000	0	2,000	4,000	72,000	1,364	Cattle
06047	Red Mountain	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	304	Cattle
06048	West Santa Rita	300	0	0	0	300	8	Cattle
06049	Aberdeen	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	231	Cattle
06050	Poverty Hills	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	78	Cattle
06079	East Crater Mountain	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	136	Cattle
06082	George Creek	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	183	Cattle
<i>BLM Bakersfield Field Office</i>								
00045	Goldpan Canyon	500	0	0	0	500	84	Cattle
00049	Loraine	700	0	0	0	700	113	Cattle
00051	Studhorse Canyon	500	0	0	0	500	100	Cattle
00059	Loco Bill Canyon	600	0	0	0	600	82	Cattle
00081	Nellie's Nipple	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	528	Cattle
00111	Sand Canyon	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	431	Cattle

For ephemeral/perennial allotments designated in the CDCA Plan, the perennial Animal Unit Months (AUMs) do not appear on permits.

Notes: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.

The BLM Acres, Other Federal Acres, Private/Other Acres, Active AUMs, and Type of Livestock information in this table have been taken from the BLM's Rangeland Administration System. The State Acres were generated from the database used by the Contractors and may or may not be charged for grazing. The lands listed in this table (other than State Acres) are authorized to be grazed by BLM permittees/lessees. Numbers represent all of the acres and AUMs contained in the allotment.

Based on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program mapping, there are approximately 989,100 acres of private grazing lands in the LUPA Decision Area. Because BLM grazing allotments include private permittee-owned/controlled-base property, some private lands are included in the BLM grazing allotment analysis.

III.16.3 Transmission Outside the DRECP Area

III.16.3.1 Federal Grazing Allotments

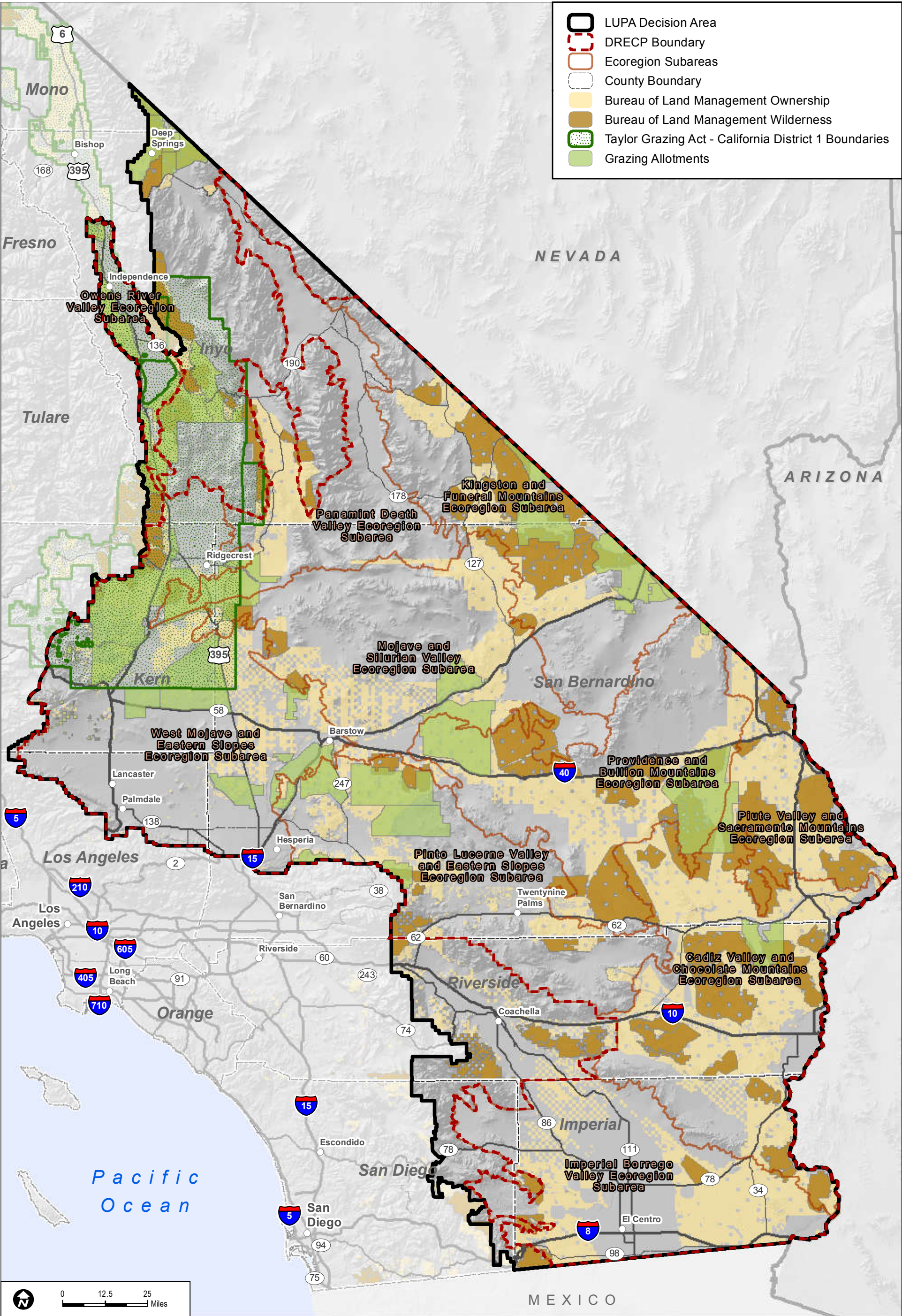
The transmission corridors outside the DRECP area are in the San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and Central Valley areas. The area within 1.5 miles of the center of the transmission corridors was reviewed for the presence of designated grazing areas. To be conservative, this 3-mile-wide swath was chosen to account for potential deviations from the conceptual plan.

In the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas, there are no grazing allotments within a 3-mile-wide swath of the transmission corridors. Table III.16-2 lists the grazing allotments that would be either traversed or within the 3-mile-wide swath for transmission corridors in the San Diego and Central Valley areas.

Table III.16-2
Grazing Allotments Outside the DRECP Area

Grazing Allotment	Distance From Corridor (in miles)
<i>San Diego Area</i>	
Hauser Mountain	Traversed for 0.5 mile
Clover Flat	Traversed for 1.8 miles
<i>Central Valley Area</i>	
Los Banos Ranch	Traversed for 11 miles
Little Panoche	Traversed for 1.8 miles
East Little Panoche	Traversed for 0.9 mile
De Pavo	1.1
Moreno Gulch	0.1
Dosados Canyon	0.5
Manning	Traversed for 3 miles
Silver Creek	0.6
Gorham Ranch	1.5
Ciervo Hills	0.4
Cantua Ranch	Traversed for 16 miles
Harris Jack A	Traversed for 5.5 miles
WJM Sheep Co.	0.7
Cal-West	0.8
Lasgoity	Traversed for 1.4 miles
Wood	Traversed for 0.3 mile
Kettleman Hills	0.7
Surprise Arroyo	0.9

Source: BLM 2013

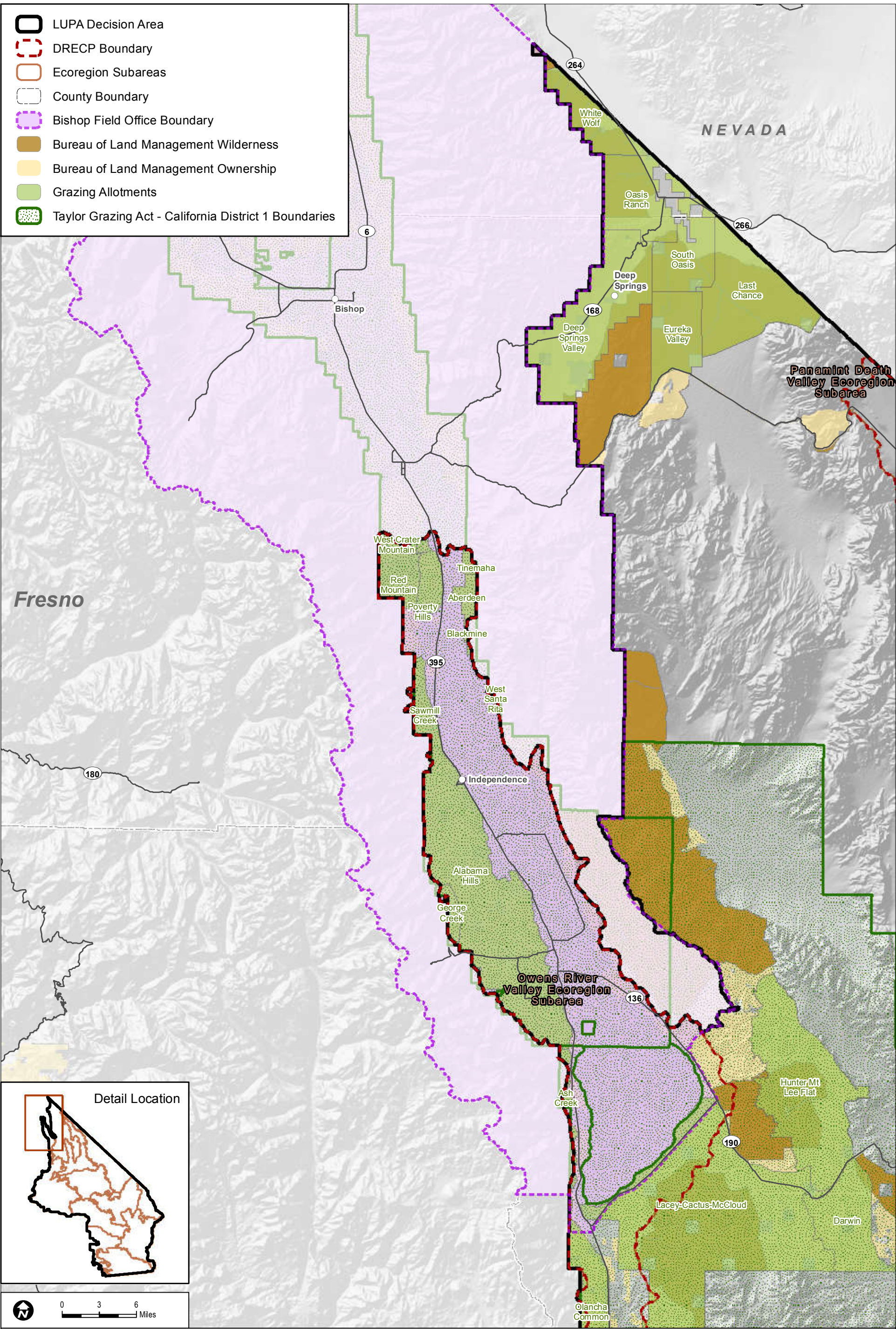


Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.16-1

Grazing District and Grazing Allotments within the LUPA Decision Area

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Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.16-2
Grazing Allotments within the BLM Bishop Field Office

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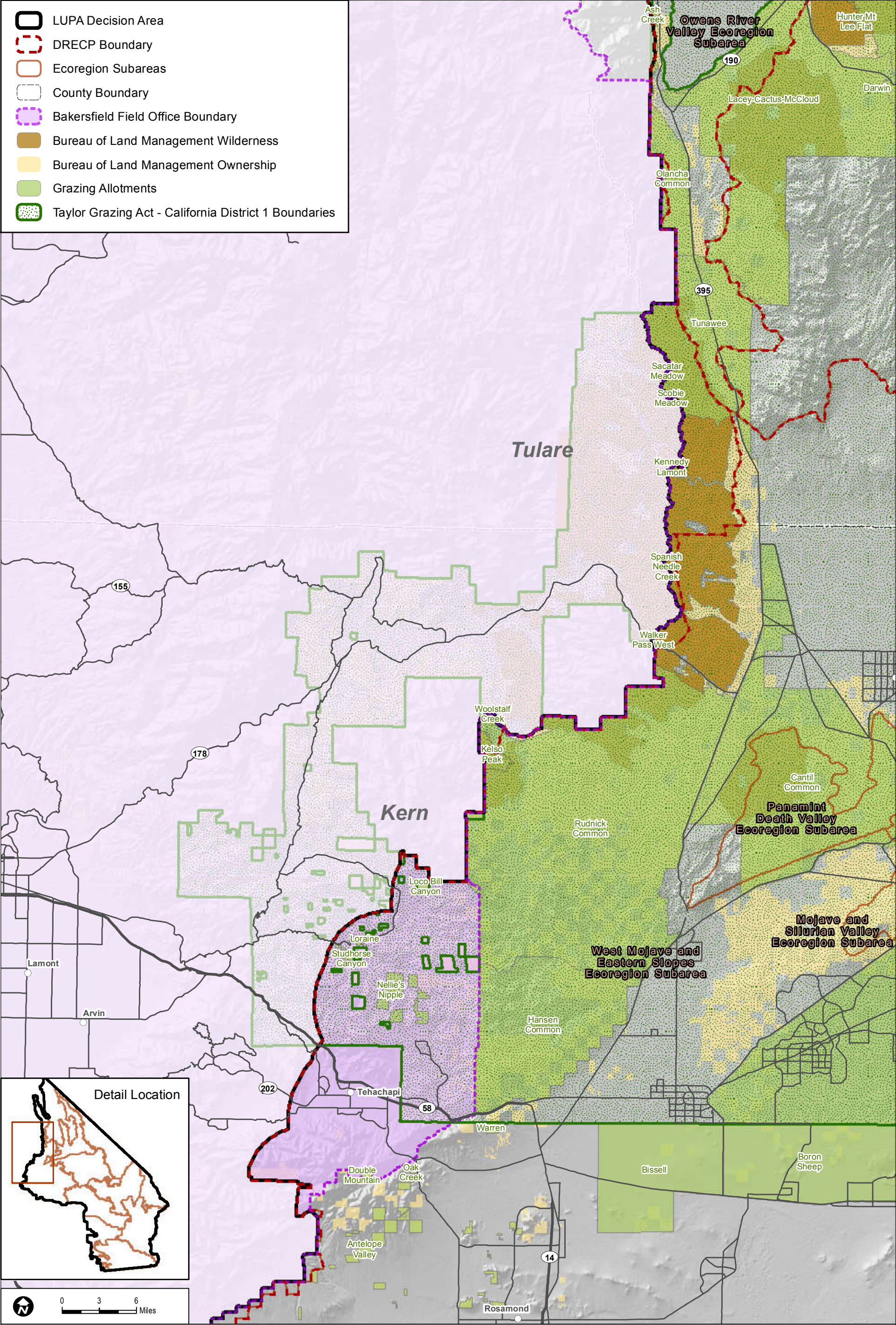


FIGURE III.16-3
Grazing Allotments within the BLM Bakersfield Field Office

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